

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/03388
filed on October 13, 2003.

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~Background of the Invention~~ **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following new paragraph after paragraph [0001]:

[0001.2] Field of the Invention

Please insert the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.2] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] An overpressure valve known from German Patent DE 31 47 321 C2 has a cup-shaped holder body, with a flange region extending all the way around toward the wall; the flange region can be joined to the inside of a length of material that forms the packaging container. A diaphragm with peripheral play relative to the holder body is disposed on the bottom of the holder body. The diaphragm is clamped against the bottom of the holder body by a hold-down ~~holding-down~~ device that is bone-shaped in plan view. The known overpressure valve thus requires three components, and in particular mounting the diaphragm and the holding-down device in the holder body is relatively complicated and expensive.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] **SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION**

Advantages of the Invention

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] The overpressure valve of the invention for a packaging container, ~~having the characteristics of claim 1~~, has the advantage over the prior art that it comprises only two components and can thus be produced more economically.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Advantageous refinements of the overpressure valve of the invention are disclosed ~~defined by the dependent claims~~. In a preferred version of the invention, the indentation has the form of at least two intersecting circles. Because of this special shape, surprisingly, an especially good response behavior of the overpressure valve can be attained; that is, the overpressure valve opens at an overpressure as low as 2 mbar, for instance.

Page 2, please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS ~~Drawing~~

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Exemplary embodiments of the invention are ~~shown in the drawing and will be~~ described in further detail below, with reference to the drawings, in which ~~Shown are:~~

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] Fig. 1 ~~is 1~~, a plan view on a first overpressure valve of the invention;

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] In Figs. 1 and 2, a first overpressure valve 10 is shown. The overpressure valve 10 has a holder body 11, which is of plastic and in particular polyethylene and which is preferably produced by injection molding. In this exemplary embodiment, the holder body 11 has a round shape in plan view, but it may have any other shape instead, such as a square shape. The holder body 11 is embodied as a shallow, cup-shaped body and, as can be seen best from Fig. 2, it has a peripheral region 13 extending all the way around that is raised relative to a middle region 12. The top side of the peripheral region 13 has a further raised area or sealing bead 14, likewise extending all the way around, that is approximately triangular in cross section. The shape of the raised area 14 serves to enable joining the overpressure valve 10 or holder body 11 to a packaging container by ultrasonic welding (or some other heat sealing method). Alternatively, a plurality of raised areas 14, preferably concentric to one another, may be embodied.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] In the middle region 12, an indentation 15 is embodied, which has the shape of two intersecting circles 16, 17. The indentation 15 is sunken, for example by approximately 0.2 mm, relative to the top side 18 of the middle region 12. In the preferred case, one through hole 19, 20 is embodied in the holder body 11 substantially at the center point of each of the circles 16, 17. The diameter of each through hole 19, 20 is 1 mm, for instance. The disposition of the indentation 15 in the middle region 12 is oriented centrally to or with the holder body 11.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The top side 18 of the middle region 12 is partly covered by an elastic ~~a~~ diaphragm 22. The diaphragm 22, shown by itself in Fig. 3, has a shape adapted to the inner contour 23

of the peripheral region 13, and on two opposed sides, one rectilinear edge each 24, 25 is provided. The diaphragm 22, which is likewise of plastic, preferably polyester, has a thickness of at most approximately 0.1 mm, and because of its material (polyester with a sealable coating) it can be sealed against the top side 18 of the middle region 12 of the holder body 11.

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The overpressure valve 10a of Fig. 5 differs from the overpressure valve 10 of Figs. 1 and 2 in that an adhesive layer 37 extending all the way around is applied to the top side of the peripheral region 13a of the holder body 11a. The adhesive layer 37, in place of the triangular raised area 14 of the overpressure valve 10, serves to join the overpressure valve 10a to the inside 2 of a length 3 of packaging material. The length 3 of packaging material is part of a packaging container, not shown in Fig. 5, which serves for instance to package coffee. A plurality of openings 4 are embodied in the length 3 of material inside the peripheral region 13a. The openings 4 may for example, as is well known, be formed by means of a suitable piercing tool either in the course of or after the attachment of the overpressure valve 10a to the length 3 of packaging material; the number and size of the openings 4 may vary, depending on the application.

Page 6, please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The overpressure ~~valve~~ ~~valves~~ 10, 10a, 40 described may be modified in manifold ways without departing from the concept of the invention, which is that the overpressure valve 10, 10a, 40 comprises only two components, that is, the holder body 11, 11a, 50 and the diaphragm 22, 48, which are joined to one another in captive fashion, and in which an

indentation 15, 15a, 42 is embodied in the region of through holes 19, 20, 44 and is covered by the diaphragm 22, 48. It is conceivable in particular to join the diaphragm 22, 48 to the holder body 11, 11a, 50 by an adhesive bond, instead of by ultrasonic welding. In addition, still other shapes of the indentations are conceivable, intended in particular to produce the lowest possible opening pressure.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0027]:

[0028] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.